



Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A storage device, comprising:
 - a memory;
 - a microcomputer for taking in data read from the memory according to a externally-supplied clock signal or a clock signal generated based on the externally-supplied clock signal;
 - a timing signal output circuit for outputting a timing signal indicative of a timing that is shifted by a first predetermined time period, which is determined according to a frequency of the clock signal which allows reading of data, from a predetermined edge in a read control signal which is used for controlling reading of data from the memory; and
 - a read data control circuit for performing control based on the timing signal for outputting the data read from the memory to the microcomputer; and
 - a mask circuit for doing the following three steps during each one read cycle:
 - (a) masking the data read from the memory to the microcomputer for the first predetermined time period;
 - (b) allowing to pass the data read from the memory to the microcomputer for a second predetermined time period which is determined according to a frequency of the clock signal which allows reading of the data and;
 - (c) masking the data read from the memory to the microcomputer until the next read cycle begins;
 - wherein the read data control circuit performs control such that the microcomputer takes in the data output read from the mask circuit ~~memory based on the timing signal~~ only when the

clock signal has a ~~predetermined~~ frequency between an upper limit and a lower limit determined according to the ~~shift of the timing~~ first and second timing period.

2 - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The storage device of claim [[7]] 1, wherein the mask circuit outputs data different from the data read from the memory during a time period other than the second predetermined time period.

9. (Original) The storage device of claim 1, further comprising a temperature detection circuit,

wherein the read data control circuit performs control such that the microcomputer takes in the data read from the memory only when the temperature detection circuit detects a predetermined temperature.

10. (Original) The storage device of claim 1, further comprising a light detection circuit, wherein the read data control circuit performs control such that the microcomputer takes in the data read from the memory only when the light detection circuit detects light having a predetermined intensity.

11. (Currently Amended) A storage device, comprising:

a memory;

a microcomputer for taking in data read from the memory according to a an externally-supplied clock signal or a clock signal generated based on the externally-supplied clock signal;

a mask circuit for outputting the data read from the memory to the microcomputer for a predetermined time period less than each one read cycle; and

a timing control circuit for performing control such that the predetermined time period less than each one read cycle during which the mask circuit outputs the data read from the

memory and the timing for taking the data output from the mask circuit into the microcomputer correspond to each other and are variable.

12. (Currently Amended) The storage device of claim 11, wherein the timing control circuit sets the predetermined time period less than each one read cycle during which the mask circuit outputs the data read from the memory and the timing for taking the data output from the mask circuit into the microcomputer, based on at least any one of the followings:

- data retained in a predetermined area of the memory;
- an address output from the microcomputer; and
- a predetermined signal output from the microcomputer.